

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY OF SOUTH TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the staff, the administration, students and families of the Math and Science Academy of South Texas Independent School District in my hometown of Mercedes, Texas, on being named one of Newsweek magazine's Best High Schools in America for 2005.

Our academy ranked 40th out of 100 U.S. high schools. A quality, comprehensive and challenging education is the most valuable gift we can give to our children. For the second time in 2 years, the Math and Science Academy of South Texas has received this prestigious recognition, and it solidifies the school's standing as a model of excellence and as an exemplary institution. The teachers and administrators are truly committed to educating and encouraging our future leaders.

As the country continues to move forward into the 21st century, the need for mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and the leaders of tomorrow continues to be of the utmost importance.

□ 1445

A high school diploma is the first step to becoming a successful contributor to our society.

The program of study at the academy ensures that students succeed and, more importantly, lays the foundation for students to learn the fundamentals that will lead to successful lives and careers. It is truly an exceptional institution.

Last fall, I joined the South Texas ISD community to celebrate the district's 40th anniversary. I would like to congratulate superintendent Marla Guerra, as well as the members of the school board of trustees, the faculty, the students, parents and alumni on 40 years of achievement. This school district demonstrates a regional commitment to excellence. The recognition that the Math and Science Academy has received is just one of many acco-

lades earned by the South Texas ISD school district.

My involvement in establishing the magnet high school system for the South Texas ISD is one of my proudest achievements. Over 20 years ago, as a member of the Texas State Board of Education, I led a delegation from south Texas to Houston to visit that city's highly regarded magnet schools. We knew that we wanted that caliber of opportunity for our students. However, we were told that such a program could not work in south Texas. We were told that we did not have the financial resources and that we could not find the students, but we did not believe the nay-sayers. We knew it could be done.

Today, the Math and Science Academy, with a student population that is almost 80 percent Hispanic and over 50 percent eligible for free or reduced price lunch, is among the most elite high schools in the Nation. Every day it brings us closer to realizing the vast potential of our community. It shows us what is possible when we invest in our children and demand the very best.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Math and Science Academy of south Texas on a job well done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE SOCIAL INSECURITY SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the interest of protecting Members of Congress, journalists and the general public, officers of the Capitol Police advised everyone to run for their lives, and we did.

Today, I wish that a Capitol Police officer would have been on hand at the Committee on Ways and Means hearing to shout the same warning.

Run for your lives is the very best nonpartisan advice that anyone can give the American people over the President's plan to create a private insecurity social system.

The President wants the American people to cut Social Security benefits. His proposal would devastate the program, break the promise and destroy

the trust made between the government and the American people.

The President wants the American people to accept his word that privatizing Social Security is in the best interests of Main Street and not Wall Street.

The President, amid much bravado, said his plan is on the table and his plan stays on the table, take it or take it. Since the President will not take private insecurity off the table, let us look at what else the President put on the table with his plan.

It is the only guaranteed outcome of the President's plan: senior citizens retiring into poverty. We need only look back in history and revisit the dark and stark reality of our own past.

Americans by the thousands retired into poverty before Social Security was created by President Franklin Roosevelt. They retired into poverty because there was no way to protect them. There was no security, and that is exactly what the President wants again.

The President says he does not read newspapers. How about American history? Can someone in the White House please get him an American history book?

It did not work. He ought to know that. Americans who have worked a lifetime were forced to live in poverty because there was no Social Security. Millions of seniors did not have the money for food, clothing or shelter.

You want to revisit America in 1932? My mother still is alive, thank God, and she would be the first to tell you that 1932 was not good. It was economically and humanitarially a disaster for America. Millions could not afford to eat. Millions had no home to call their own. Americans did not have a lifeline, much less a safety net. It was a dark and horrifying period of American history.

Why in the world does the President continue ignoring history? He proposes a plan; no, the President demands a private insecurity social system. He says he will listen to any idea as long as it is his.

So, today, the President's water is carried by the distinguished but misinformed chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. I said it before and I say it again: The President's plan for a private insecurity social system is dead as disco. Nobody goes to discos anymore. It does not work. It does not even have those fancy twirling disco lights on the dance floor. The President's plan does not offer real benefits. It offers real cuts.

The President's plan reflects America in 1932, a place with little security and a lot of greed, a place at a time when Americans suffered and lost hope until a great leader renewed a trust with the American people.

A President, in the worst of times, created Social Security to provide every retired American with economic security, guaranteed, something this President wants to destroy.

President Roosevelt created a program that is not Republican or Democrat. It is not east or west. It is not north or south. He envisioned the Nation strong because it defended the weak, stalwart because it valued its people, mighty because it was humble enough to care for the sick and the aged. No one was left behind by President Roosevelt.

This President will leave tens of millions behind in a risky scheme that rewards the greed of Wall Street while it destroys the values of Main Street.

Americans will not be better off with the President's private insecurity social system. Americans will be as vulnerable again as they were at the darkest economic moment in our history. It will be back in the arms of Wall Street.

The President offers no plan and no choice. The President offers only a stark reality: Slash the benefits right now, and he put it right out there a couple of days ago in his news conference; and also cut your bond with the American people; cut the ties that bind us together; destroy the trust and certainty that senior citizens will not retire into poverty because we will not let them. They cannot, if Mr. Bush has his way.

There is only one course open to the Congress and the American people. If the President will not remove the private insecurity social system from the table, then the American people should remove the table. Throw it away before somebody gets hurt. Remove it from America's house because it does not belong there.

We are a Nation of people who want our children and grandchildren to have an opportunity for more than we had. We will be the first generation to expect our children to have less because we planned it that way.

The President wants to create a Nation of people wanting for the basics of food, clothing and shelter. We lived through that once. We do not need to live through it again.

FDR was right in 1935, and he is right in 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DENT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LATE PETER RODINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to honor and commemorate the life and the accomplishments of our former colleague Congressman Peter Rodino, elected to the House of Representatives in 1949, who served his

district in New Jersey for 40 years with great integrity, humility, fairness, dignity and honor.

Originally known for making Columbus Day a national holiday, Chairman Peter Rodino spent his whole life fighting for people's rights, and I recall personally his strong commitment to human rights, his unwavering support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Voting Rights Extension Act of 1982. He introduced many of these bills and shepherded them through Congress as chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

He was also responsible for the enactment of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act which reviewed determinations of mergers of huge corporations in America, and he was instrumental in reforming immigration laws in both the Simpson-Rodino legislation and the Kennedy-Rodino legislation, both of which improved mechanisms for people in the country illegally to legalize their immigration status.

In 1973, Mr. Rodino replaced the legendary Emanuel Celler as the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. I was then a member of the committee, and he impressed all of us with his determination to do the right thing and his considerate treatment of all committee members. He displayed this common touch in his ability to relate to citizens of every background and from all walks of life.

Of course, Peter Rodino has earned his record in history for his role as chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, presiding over the Watergate hearings which led to the impeachment of then President Richard Millhouse Nixon. History has recorded the debt all Americans owe him for presiding firmly, responsibly and fairly over these hearings and subsequent proceedings.

Many people were very alarmed at what the impeachment of a President would mean, and they wondered aloud in our public media whether this country could survive an impeachment. He handled this very sensitive matter, and it turned Chairman Peter Rodino into a national hero. It was his calm steering of the committee to a final conclusion that ultimately preserved, without any disruption, the constitutional system of the United States, which has been emulated throughout the world.

After he retired from Congress in 1990, he returned to New Jersey as a professor of law at Seton Hall Law School in Newark, New Jersey, and he was active up until even last year. When I visited him there, he was still going strong.

I would like to close by announcing that his memorial service will be held in Newark on this coming Monday, and we want to invite as many of his friends in and out of the Congress who remember his great work to join us at 11 a.m. at the Catholic church of which he was closely connected for his memorial service.

□ 1500

VOLUNTARY OSHA EFFORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that today we heard some very important testimony on workplace safety during a hearing we had in the Subcommittee on Workplace Protections. We wanted to hear from safety advocates in the small business community on how well voluntary employer compliance programs are working to improve workplace safety while at the same time protecting jobs and small businesses from unnecessary red tape and lawsuits.

I have heard employers say many times, and know from my own firsthand knowledge, that OSHA regulations are simply too complex and too difficult to understand. It is a red-tape nightmare, Mr. Speaker. That is a good description for the piles of OSHA rules, regulations, guidance documents, and interpretive letters that employers must dig through to try to determine the right thing to do in the business place to come into compliance. Mr. Speaker, I do not think they ought to be spending their time bringing their workplace into compliance with OSHA red tape. They ought to, instead, be spending their time making their workplace safer.

Small businesses want to comply with our Nation's health and safety laws for many reasons, one of which is it simply pays for them to do so. From the testimony we heard today, it is evident that OSHA's past "gotcha" enforcement scheme of fines and lawsuits is actually leading to a less safe workplace, as small business owners are forced to hunker down to protect themselves instead of seeking out help to improving their workplace safety.

Fortunately, OSHA has already recognized the need for compliance assistance, and Secretary Chao is to be commended for her vision and leadership in this regard. Now we are actually starting to see the results of her efforts over the last 5 years, and those results are positive and encouraging.

The Government Accountability Office, fondly known as GAO, has found that the companies involved in voluntary OSHA compliance programs have contributed to the safest workforce in our Nation's modern history. GAO asked for more data from Congress on how well these programs are working, and we need to provide that just as soon as possible.

But one overall fact we already know is that encouraging OSHA to help businesses instead of prosecuting them is having far better results in creating safer workplaces, and this is especially true with small businesses. We can continue this process with some powerful force multipliers with OSHA, through voluntary employer efforts to work